

STATINTL

WENNERSTROM TELLS CLOAKROOM AND DAGGER STORY

Spying Here Was a Breeze, Swede Says

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A former Swedish air force colonel who served the Russians for nearly 15 years as a "master spy" has reported that the Soviet intelligence service numbers at least 150,000 persons.

The spy, Col. Stig Wennerstrom, who was sentenced to life in Stockholm last July, also estimated U. S. intelligence agencies use a minimum of 100,000 agents.

"Wennerstrom worked for a time as a "double agent" for the U.S. before throwing his complete loyalty to the communists.

Many new details of his activities as a spy were disclosed today in a censored transcript of testimony he gave to Swedish investigators.

It was made public by the Senate Internal Security sub-committee.

Wennerstrom revealed the "almost fantastic" ease with

which he obtained secret technical data on U.S. weapons and defense plans from American military officers and industrialists during his service as Swedish air attache in Washington from 1952-1957.

He gave these two major sources of hundreds of documents and reports he photographed and turned over to Soviet intelligence agents in Washington:

- His friendly contacts with U. S. military officers, chiefly in The Air Force and Navy, who "unconsciously" permitted him to see or "borrow" classified documents containing technical information sought by the Russians.
- His frequent visits to industrial plants where he was often given access to secret data on aircraft and other weapons, usually after he indicated that the Swedish government might be interested in buying them. In some cases, he testified, he bribed minor company officials to obtain such information.

Identities of Wennerstrom's alleged American "contacts" were deleted from the transcript by Swedish authorities.

He disclosed he was recruited as a Soviet agent in 1948 when, after making friends with Soviet diplomats in Stockholm, he offered them information on a Swedish airfield for 5000 crowns (\$100).

He soon was transferred to Moscow as air attache and was paid the money even tho he and the Russians knew the information was valueless.

He said he already had agreed to assist U.S. intelligence in Russia and thus drifted into his role as a "double agent."

At one point in Moscow, Wennerstrom related, he helped the U. S. embassy collect information on potential

bombing targets in Russia and then gave Soviet agents more complete data on such targets assembled by the Americans from other sources.

He said he even helped Soviet agents obtain a map of U. S. targets in Russia from a courier who was taking it from Moscow to the American intelligence center in Wiesbaden.

While in Washington, he said, he often took films of the documents in his overcoat pockets to diplomatic receptions and then told Soviet "contacts" where his coat was hung in the cloakroom so they could remove the films.

He reported he and the Soviet air attache in Washington also gave each other keys to locked medicine chests in each other's homes. They used the chests to exchange films and instructions during parties.